

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/272,562

Examiner

Arden B. Sperty

Applicant(s)

ALAM ET AL.

Art Unit

1771

EB

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Supplemental Amendment 07/16/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-11, 21-23 and 25-28.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 3/19/99 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Scott Young on July 16, 2004.

The application has been amended as follows:

AMEND THE CLAIMS AS FOLLOWS:

1. (Currently Amended) A screen ink printed film carrier, comprising a thin film carrier layer supporting an ink pattern containing an electrically resistive or conductive material and a curable resin, wherein said thin film carrier layer comprise a continuous surface layer ~~curable adhesive material~~ in contact with said ink pattern, and the continuous surface layer ~~curable adhesive material~~ being co-curable with the curable resin, wherein the screen ink printed film carrier has an overall density of about 0.05 to 0.1 lb/ft³.

2. (Currently Amended) The screen ink printed film carrier of claim 1, wherein said thin film carrier layer comprises a base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~ and a continuous surface layer attached to said base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~, said continuous surface layer comprising a thermosetting resin.

3. (Currently Amended) The screen ink printed film carrier of claim 2, wherein said base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~ is a textile material selected from the group consisting of a woven layer, a knit layer, a scrim layer, and a nonwoven layer.

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4. (Currently Amended) The screen ink printed film carrier of claim 2, wherein said base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~ is a woven polyester.

5. (Currently Amended) The screen ink printed film carrier of claim 2, wherein said base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~ is selected from the group consisting of a polyester scrim and a nylon scrim.

21. (Currently Amended) The screen ink printed film carrier of claim 2, wherein said base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~ has a thickness of about 125 to 380 μm , and the continuous surface layer has a thickness of about 25 to 250 μm .

28. (Currently Amended) The screen ink printed film carrier of claim 1, wherein:

said thin film carrier layer comprises a base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~ and a continuous surface layer attached to said base fibrous layer ~~fibrous sublayer~~, said continuous surface layer comprising a thermosetting resin; and

said curable resin contained in said ink pattern comprises a thermosetting resin selected from the group consisting of phenolic, phenolic/epoxy mixtures, and polyimide.

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

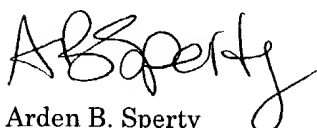
The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Although the prior art teaches numerous methods of printing film carriers, the prior art is not seen to teach screen printing, especially in combination with other critical features of the invention. The additional critical and distinguishing features include the co-curable resin and continuous surface layer, in combination with the specifically claimed overall density. The combination of these features distinguishes the claimed invention over the prior art, no single feature alone distinguishing the claimed invention over the prior art.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arden B. Sperty whose telephone number is (571)272-1543. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th, 08:00-16:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached on (571)272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Arden B. Sperty
Examiner
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July 22, 2004



TERREL MORRIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700